

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY DRAFTED: ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA:BABS
APPROVED BY ARA:TERENCE A. TODMAN
S:JCAHILL
S/S:S. GOLDSMITH
EUR/NE:JSHUMATE (INFO)
AF/S:WFEATON (INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055812

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PLEASE PASS TO CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EAID, GY, US

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND GUYANESE
FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS 3/9/77

THIS TELEGRAM IS BASED UPON AN UNCLEARED MEMCON AND IS
SUBJECT TO REVISION.

SUMMARY: DURING A CORDIAL 45-MINUTE MEETING, SECRETARY
VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS DISCUSSED SUBJECTS OF
MUTUAL INTEREST. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE
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RELATIONS BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE U.S. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS EXPLAINED
GUYANA'S POSITION TOWARD THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM,
AND THE SECRETARY INDICATED THE UNITED STATES' INTEREST
IN FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM. END
SUMMARY.

1. BILATERAL RELATIONS: THE SECRETARY WELCOMED THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES GROW CLOSE AGAIN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCURRED IN THE HOPE THAT RELATIONS MAY IMPROVE, STATING THAT "WE SHOULD REBUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." IN REFERRING TO PAST DIFFICULTIES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GUYANA, THE FOREIGN

MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN DUE TO A LACK OF COMMUNICATION. HE STATED THAT GUYANA WAS A NON-ALIGNED STATE AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME THE SATELLITE OF ANY OTHER STATE.

2. CUBANA CRASH: REFERRING TO THE BOMBING OF THE CUBANA AIRCRAFT ON OCTOBER 6, 1976, WILLS STATED THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT THE EVIDENCE POINTED TO CUBAN EXILE INVOLVEMENT. HE ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE U.S. INVOLVEMENT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS EVIDENCE LINKING USG AGENCIES TO CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ERASE THE DOUBT FROM THE MINDS OF MANY GUYANESE THAT THERE WAS SOME U.S. INVOLVEMENT. REFERRING TO THE "BALD-FACED LIES" STATEMENT BY A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, HE EXPRESSED CHAGRIN THAT THE STATEMENT HAD NOT BEEN "SOFTENED" AND INDICATED THAT "GRASS ROOTS" IN GUYANA FELT THAT IT WAS RACIST.

AMBASSADOR TODMAN MADE CLEAR, AT THIS POINT, THAT THE USG COULD NOT ACCEPT AN ACCUSATION OF MURDER SUCH AS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ONE INVOLVED IN THE STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND THAT IT HAD BEEN BOUND TO RESPOND TO IT.

3. GUYANA'S 1978 ELECTIONS: WILLS TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT HIS PARTY FELT CONFIDENT IT COULD WIN THE 1978 ELECTIONS PROVIDED THERE WAS NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

4. APPOINTMENT OF A U.S. AMBASSADOR: WILLS STRESSED THE DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO HAVE AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR APPOINTED TO GUYANA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO COUNTER-BALANCE THE FACT THAT CUBAN AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS WERE PRESENT IN GEORGETOWN. THE SECRETARY TOLD THE MINISTER THAT AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY A PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED ADVISORY BOARD AND THAT HE HOPED THE PANEL WOULD CONCLUDE ITS WORK IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: THE SECRETARY TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD

WITH THE DOLS 1 MILLION MANPOWER TRAINING LOAN WHICH HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE 1975 IF GUYANA WAS STILL INTERESTED. WILLS REPLIED THAT IT WAS, AND THE SECRETARY INFORMED HIM THAT WE WOULD PROCEED WITH THE LOAN. REFERRING TO THE MAZARUNI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, THE SECRETARY STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED THE OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AND WOULD STUDY IT.

6. SOUTHERN AFRICA: WILLS TALKED AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT APARTHEID AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE GUYANESE PEOPLE FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THESE MATTERS AND THAT GUYANA LOOKED TO THE U.S. AS THE ONE COUNTRY WHICH COULD EXERCISE ENOUGH INFLUENCE OVER SMITH AND VORSTER TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE AREA. HE SAID THAT THE U.K. NO LONGER WAS AN INFLUENTIAL COUNTRY IN AFRICA AND THAT THE U.S. HAD REPLACED IT. GUYANA SUBSCRIBED TO THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO. IT ACCEPTED A
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MILITARY OPTION IN THE SOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEM, BUT PREFERRED TO SEE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WHICH WOULD AVOID A BLOOD BATH. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS.

7. FYI: NO STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ISSUED. IF YOU ARE ASKED BY GUYANESE MEDIA ABOUT RESULTS OF THE MEETING, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT IT WAS A CORDIAL MEETING IN WHICH THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXCHANGED IDEAS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR WISH THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. IN REGARD TO THE DOLS 1 MILLION MANPOWER TRAINING LOAN, SHOULD THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT CHOOSE TO MAKE IT KNOWN, YOU SHOULD MERELY INDICATE THAT THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED TO PROCEED WITH IT. YOU SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUYANA. END FYI.
VANCE

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